

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2006

(approved 7/10/2006)

Acting Chair Geoffrey Maker called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:04pm in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present included Jay Bradshaw, Representative Richard Brown, Stephan Bunker, Bruce Fitzgerald (for Art Cleaves), John Cannon, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, David Niklaus, Harty Norris, Charles Soltan, Leslie Wiles and Susan Pinette (staff). Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Representative Robert Duplessie, Gerry Gay, Edward Johnston and David Wacker were excused. Ron Green of the Bangor Fire Department and former member Steve Willis from Maine Fire Training and Education (MFT&E) attended as guests of the Fire Commission.

A motion from Harty Norris, seconded by Charlie Soltan, to accept the minutes of May 8, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission recently learned that Art Cleaves, Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and a member of the Fire Commission, has resigned from MEMA and been appointed New England Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Charles Jacobs will become the Acting Director of MEMA.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee reports the 2007 Blaine House Conference on Emergency First Response is scheduled for March 19th and March 20th (Monday and Tuesday). Tentative plans include arranging for a national speaker, offering new and interesting workshop subjects and attracting more vendors and sponsors. The committee plans to continue with a similar conference format although they indicated some changes, including shortening the length of the workshops and allowing more time for questions and networking. The Spring Committee recommends the Fire Commission discontinue the evening legislative reception, and instead sponsors a legislative breakfast. The legislative breakfast in 2006 was well attended and members agreed the Fire Commission should host another breakfast in 2007.

The Residential Sprinkler Committee reports they have not met recently but updated the Fire Commission on other meetings around the state on residential sprinklers. The Maine Fire Chiefs sponsored an event in Belfast that was well attended. Members discussed the need and the Fire Commission's role in educating the fire service and the public on the benefits of residential sprinklers. Members suggested hosting two or three workshops for the fire service and other interested parties (town officials, codes enforcement personnel, builders etc.) to begin the discussion and start people thinking about using, as well as dispelling the inaccuracies, of residential sprinklers. Some members suggested considering residential sprinklers as a timely subject for the 2007 Spring Conference.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee proposed the Fire Commission reexamine the recruitment and retention issue. Citing the recent success with passing L.D. 1021, the R/R Committee suggested the Fire Commission take this opportunity to work hard for call and volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel (EMS). Members agreed to review the Penflex reports and to discuss the issue at the June meeting. Further suggestions included identifying where the money would go, proposing specific rather than general ideas, and reviewing the suggestions in the Penflex report.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Dick Brown, that the Fire Commission moves forward with its work on recruitment and retention and to consider legislation for 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

The Best Practices Committee and the Training Facilities Committee are seeking volunteers due to recent resignations of its members.

Old Business

L.D. 2044 **“An Act To Enhance the Protection of Maine Families from Terrorism and Natural Disasters” (Emergency)** was signed into law by Governor Baldacci on May 9, 2006.

Fire Commission members continued to discuss the residential sprinkler issue and ways to join with other organizations to educate and inform the public. Members discussed the role of the Fire Commission, how to be most effective, potential legislation and building coalitions. Members learned about Fire Team USA and Fire Team Tennessee and their experience building groups at the local level. Members agreed to host and participate in several events. Some suggestions included the MMA meeting in October (target audience-municipal officials) and the Spring Conference in March (target audience-emergency responders). Fire Commission members also agreed to host a meeting in September for a roundtable discussion of shared issues of interest and concern and to discuss potential legislation. The Fire Commission will invite three members from each of the constituent groups to participate. Members agreed to meet on Tuesday, September 12th at Florian Hall at 1:00pm and this meeting will

replace the Fire Commission's regular monthly meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Darrel Fournier, that the Fire Commission hosts a roundtable discussion on Tuesday, September 12th at 1:00pm in Florian Hall and the Chair will send a letter inviting three representatives from the Fire Commission's constituents (MSFF, PFFM, Maine Chiefs, MEMS, MEMA, MFT&E, BLS, SFMO, Forest Service, insurance industry, Governor's Office, Legislature and the public) to discuss and share concerns prior to the 2007 Legislative session. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Members were informed that MFT&E was launching a new Basic Fire School. The course would be offered at no cost and meet Bureau of Labor Standard's (BLS) compliance standards. More information is available on the MFT&E website. <http://www.mfte.org/>

Fire Commission members discussed the issue of juvenile and youth fire-setters. Members were informed that juvenile fire-setting is a large problem and it is estimated that for every juvenile fire-setter report, sixty go unreported. There is a need for a shared comprehensive database to address this problem and many groups need to be involved including the fire service, schools and educators and juvenile justice. Members received a flyer for a September 20th "Play Safe! Be Safe!" workshop which is an award winning fire safety education program created especially for children 3-5. A copy of the children's book-Children Are No Match For Fire- was also shown to members.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Dick Brown, that the Fire Commission cancels their August meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Vice Chair Nass adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule

<u>Monday, July 10th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Tuesday, September 12th</u>	DISCUSSION	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, October 2nd</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 6th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, December 4th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm

Please note there is NO meeting in August. Have a wonderful summer!